

152 THE PICTURE O?" **DORIAN GRAY**

his casv, an- r-roJudn:: a gold-Utten
matchbox, "the only
v/ay it wcrrou'n. >,a.n fcv~:r rtf'im a man is by boring
him so com-
pl-stciv t...*. he - r'-i all possible interest in life.
If you had
rr-:~*r~e:: *?..*f r*!" yr - wouH have b-en
wretched. Of course
yj-. v ,L,- I.- *f; trftwtSfd hor kindly. One can
always be kind
?:• 7.<-o:..Ic al' ut w;o:n or.f cares nothing. But
she would
hiivl- ii•:•! iour.d out t.iat you were absolutely
indifferent to
hvr. A:rl tvr.cn a woman finds that out about
her husband,
she t'itlit-r Incomes dreadfully dowdy, or wears
very smart
:•.nr-'jzs that some other woman's husband has
to pay for. I say
iv-tth::::' about the social mistake, which would
have been abject
wl.itlj, of course, I would not have allowed, but I
assure you
th?.t ia any case the whole thing would have been
an absolute
failure/'
"I suppose it would/' muttered the lad,
walking up and
down theVoom, and looking horribly pale. "But I
thought it
was my duty. It is not my fault that this terrible
tragedy has

"Good resolutions are useless attempts to
interfere with
scientific laws. Their origin is pure vanity. Their
result is
absolutely *nil*. They give us, now and then, some
of those
luxurious sterile emotions that have a certain
charm for the
weak. Tliat is all that can be said for them. They
are simply
cheques that men draw on a bank where they
have no account."

"Harry/* cried Dorian Gray, coming over and
sitting down
beside him, "why is it that I cannot feel this
tragedy as much
as I want to? I don't think I am heartless. Do
you?"

"You have done too many foolish things during
the last
fortnight to be entitled to give yourself that
name, Dorian/'
answered Lord Henry, with his sweet, melancholy
smile.

The lad frowned. "I don't like that
explanation, Harry/*
lie rejoined, "but I am glad you don't think I
am heartless.
I am nothing of the kind. I know I am not. And
yet I must
admit that this thing that has happened does not
affect me as
it should. It seems to me to be simply like a
wonderful ending
to a wonderful play* It has all the terrible beauty
of a Greek
tragedy, a tragedy in which I took a great part,
but by which
I Jhive not been wounded/*

"It is an interesting question," said Lord Henry,
who found
an exquisite pleasure in playing on the lad's
unconscious egotism
—"an extremely interesting question. I fancy
that the true